

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLN. OF: WINQUIST ET AL

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The Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled matter, Applicants hereby attach U.S. Patent Office Form PTOL-1449, including copies of the prior art references listed therein. The references were cited in the International Preliminary Examination Report of co-related PCT Patent application. A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report is enclosed. Enclosed also is a copy of a Swedish Office Action dated November 11, 1998 of the underlying Swedish patent application together with an English translation of the relevant portions thereof. Also enclosed are copies of references cited in the Applicants' related US Patent Application Serial Nos. 09/000,134; 09/491,020. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over these references.

This information disclosure statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(A). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitute prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(A) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

HAYES, SOLOWAY,
HENNESSEY, GROSSMAN
& HAGE, P.C.
175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH
03101-2335 U.S.A.

603-668-1400

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

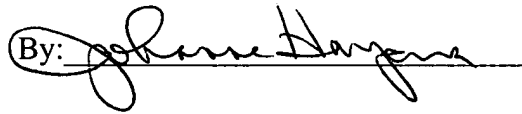
Respectfully submitted,



Norman P. Soloway
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 24,315

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on March 15, 2001 at Manchester, New Hampshire.

By: 

HAYES, SOLOWAY,
HENNESSEY, GROSSMAN
& HAGE, P.C.
175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH
03101-2335 U.S.A.

603-668-1400